

This Week's Friday Report



San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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FRIDAY REPORT: January 23, 2009



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Upcoming Events

Feb 23 - Annual February Business Mixer with American Jewish Committee

Check the "Mark Your Calendars" Section for more information about these events.

WEATHER

San Francisco Weekend Weather

Saturday ²⁴	Sunday ²⁵
Flu Report	Airport WiFi Locator
 High 54°F Low 49°F AM Showers	 High 51°F Low 44°F Few Showers
Precip: 30%	Precip: 30%

NEWS

Spain's Integrants Internship Program Seeks Companies in the U.S.

and Canada To Place Outstanding Interns -- All-expenses covered, end of January deadline to secure placement

As a startup advertising agency in a 'foreign' city - but one they love and a good enough reason for setting up shop here ? and a new member of the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Wikreate has been working hard the past year to make connections with the Hispanic business communities. With limited resources, especially in this down economy, they could not have been given a better new year's gift than the two

Integrants trainees currently working with them. Integrants is a new program offered by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. The Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation funds the program to give Spanish university graduates internship opportunities at companies in the U.S. and Canada to work for six months. The interns are highly qualified and very enthusiastic to learn and contribute their skills and knowledge in varied roles and industries.

Wikreate's Spanish co-founders, Ezequiel Trivino and Elena Castanon, immediately saw the benefits of the program and are excited to participate this year. Being in the business of creating and promoting social networks and seeing the lack of publicity (mainly due to Integrants being a new program), they wanted to spread the word about this wonderful opportunity for companies to take advantage of - to tell their fellow SFHCC members.

Miren Martinez, one of the new Integrant interns at Wikreate, describes her experience as a dream come true: "When I was about to graduate I could see myself working abroad to get an international background on advertising. I dreamed of coming to Wikreate, a 360° advertising and communications located in San Francisco, but the U.S. bureaucracy seemed too much to go through for the company and myself. I found out about the Integrants Program... and now my dream has come true! The grant took care of the paperwork and made the perfect match. I am gaining skills from experts in social media communications and networking and am helping them with contributing fresh ideas, coming from another country."

The government of Spain covers all program costs which includes roundtrip air travel from Spain, a stipend for the interns, health insurance, and other legal expenses. The only requirement is that the host company must be a registered member of the Spain-US Chamber of Commerce of New York or Miami; this can be done after securing an intern at the company. According to the Integrants program coordinator, applications will accepted from companies to participate in this year's program until the end of January. For more information, please link to the Integrants Program website: <http://www.integrants.es/index.php>

For any questions regarding the program and the application process, feel free to contact Wikreate: It's very simple to have a qualified intern.. We have gone through the arrangements and it's very easy. We will be very glad to help anyone who is interested in the Program. You can write to: mirenmartinez@wikreate.com or ezequieltrivino@wikreate.com, or call 415.362.0440. We invite you to learn more about us at: <http://wikreate.com/>

Lawmakers Consider Energy Measures in Stimulus

WASHINGTON (Reuters)

The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee on Thursday was set to approve energy measures included in Democrats' economic recovery package, even though a leading Republican criticized the bill as too narrow. The \$825 billion plan would spend about \$25 billion on renewable energy, energy efficiency and electricity transmission. The package would also promote the development of so called smart power grid technology to support alternative energy use, plug-in hybrid vehicles and boost energy efficiency.

Under the legislation, the government also would provide financial assistance of up to 50 percent of the costs for advanced grid technology necessary for certain electric utilities developing smart grid demonstration projects. Ranking Republican committee member Joe Barton of Texas said he believed the plan short changes funding for carbon capture and storage technology and ignores nuclear power. Barton called the \$2.4 billion devoted to clean

coal development in the economic stimulus legislation "relatively miserly." "In my opinion, the energy provisions before us over-stimulate a small area of our economy and neglect the rest," Barton said in a statement.

At the hearing Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman said the legislation's loan guarantee program does not address nuclear power because the bill is focused on bolstering the economy within two years and no nuclear plants are set to come on line in that time. Several other House committees will take up other parts of the economic stimulus package and then send the measure to the Senate.

The Democratic-controlled Congress hopes to have a final bill on U.S. President Barack Obama's desk for his signature into law by the Presidents Day holiday on February 16.

The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee approved \$20 billion in energy tax credits and related financial incentives for inclusion in the economic stimulus package.

(Reporting by Ayesha Rascoe; Editing by David Gregorio)

PG&E Scholarships Now Available

With tuition rising at higher education institutions, high school seniors continue their search to reduce the cost of their education with scholarships and grants. In 2008, as part of PG&E's commitment to the community, the company's Employee Associations helped lower college expenditures for students by giving \$311,000 in scholarships to 170 awardees within its service territory.

PG&E would like to extend further opportunities in 2009 and welcome all college-bound students living within the PG&E service territory to visit its newly updated scholarship [website](#) and download applications.

Please review each of the scholarship applications as the eligibility requirements, submission deadlines and contact persons will vary.

The San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Joins Facebook

Yes, it's true. If you are on Facebook, look for the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The SFHCC has a group on LinkIn.com and has demonstrated interest from members. Facebook provides more tools and a broader group to build from.

The SFHCC looks for new and innovative ways for our members and partners to promote their products and services. Our Facebook Group will link you to professionals and provide access to forums where you can develop your business and network.

More and more professionals are looking to social networking as a way to remain present and relevant. We encourage you to join our group and participate in the discussion boards as we will use those to discuss hot issues that typically have limited amounts of time to respond to which impact your business.

If you have further questions, call 415-278-9611.

Minimum Wage Rate for 2009

Beginning January 1, 2009, the San Francisco Minimum Wage rate is \$9.79 per hour.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb 23 - Annual February Business Mixer with American Jewish Committee

Date: Monday, February 23, 2009

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Place: Zazil (845 Market Street, #400, S.F. - in Westfield San Francisco Center)

Join us at our FIRST business mixer of 2009!! Come network with other Latino professionals and members of the [American Jewish Committee](#) while enjoying delicious appetizers and no host bar at Zazil's, one of San Francisco's hottest restaurants. We will also release a sneak preview of 2009 programming for the Chamber.

Fees:

Pre-Registration (by Feb 19) - FREE to SFHCC and AJC Members [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Registration at Door (After Feb 19) - Members \$10, Non-Members \$15 [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

EVENTS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Jan 27-29 - U.S. Navy Hosts Hispanic-Owned Small Business Conference, Los Angeles

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 /PRNewswire-HISPANIC PR WIRE/ -- The U.S. Navy Program Executive Officers for Submarines and Littoral and Mine Warfare will host a conference for Hispanic-Owned Small Businesses (HOSB) who seek opportunities with the U.S. Navy at California State University in Los Angeles, CA on 27-29 January 2009. The conference will provide an unprecedented forum where HOSB owners can connect directly with senior Navy and industry leaders to learn, collaborate, and explore ways in which U.S. Navy undersea and littoral mine warfare programs can benefit from the vast product and service offerings of our nation's HOSBs. Furthermore, the conference will facilitate relationships among minority-serving colleges and universities and the federal government to attract an increasingly effective and diverse workforce for the U.S. government. In addition to informational sessions, this conference will provide valuable networking opportunities, including one-on-one sessions where HOSB representatives will meet with large government prime contractors and government representatives to learn about immediate and upcoming business opportunities. For more information on the HOSB Conference or to register for this event, please visit www.hosbconference.com or contact Charise Arellano of Burke Consortium, Incorporated by email at hosbconference@bcinow.com or phone at 703-941-0600.

SOURCE U.S. Navy Program Executive Officers for Submarines and Littoral and Mine Warfare

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NEW MEMBERS

Chamber members have access to exclusive benefits that build relationships, increase visibility, and generate business leads. They're the first to learn about economic trends and developments that shape the City's business

environment and their own companies' growth. And they influence decision makers in San Francisco and beyond, helping ensure that San Francisco means business-in every sense. Welcome additions to the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Memberships can be purchased online using the following link:
<https://sfhccregistration.chamberbusinesssuite.com/>

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